

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 L-03
INT-05 AGRE-00 /049 R

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APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:ALZUCCA
OES/OFA/FA:KCLARK-BOURNE
ARA/MEX-MR. FALK

-----102030Z 127965 /53

R 101735Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 030409

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: US/MEXICO FISHERIES AGREEMENT

REF: MEXICO 1466

1. REGARDING PARAGRAPH 2 REFTTEL, DEPT. WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS RECIPROCAL CLAUSE XV IN AGREEMENT AND STEPS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN IN ORDER FOR MEXICAN FISHERY TO TAKE PLACE OFF U.S. COAST. AS HAS BEEN POINTED OUT TO GOM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE U.S./MEXICO FISHERIES AGREEMENT IS NOT A RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT, AND DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR MEXICAN FISHING OFF U.S. COAST. ACCORDING TO US 200 MILE FISHERIES LAW, P.L. 94-265, IN ORDER FOR SUCH FISHING TO TAKE PLACE IT IS FIRST NECESSARY THAT USG AND GOM CONCLUDE A GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT (GIFA). THIS IS ESSENTIALLY AN AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN PRINCIPLES. GOM WOULD THEN MAKE APPLICATION FOR ACCESS TO SPECIFIC
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FISHERIES, AND IF U.S. FISHERMEN ARE NOT TAKING ALL OF PERMISSABLE CATCH, SURPLUS CAN BE ALLOCATED TO MEXICAN FISHERMEN PURSUANT TO LICENSING PROCEDURE.

2. PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THAT GOM UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO FISH OFF U.S. COAST AFTER MARCH 1.

EMBASSY MIGHT INQUIRE OF GOM IF IT IS TAKING STEPS TO INFORM ITS FISHERMEN THAT U.S. WILL BE ENFORCING 200 MILE FISHERIES JURISDICTION BEGINNING MARCH 1. IN THIS CONNECTION, SPECIFIC MENTION MIGHT BE MADE OF ABALONE OFF CORTES BANK, WHICH WILL COME UNDER U.S. JURISDICTION ON MARCH 1. DEPT HAS RECENTLY BEEN MADE AWARE OF MEXICAN ABALONE FISHERMEN TAKING ABALONE IN THIS AREA WITHOUT REGARD TO CONSERVATION MEASURES ESTABLISHED BY STATE OF CALIFORNIA. THIS RECENT FISHING HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN QUITE HEAVY AND HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CRITICISM FROM U.S. FISHERMEN AND CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICIALS. GOM SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN ITS FISHERMEN DO NOT CONTINUE THIS FISHING AFTER MARCH 1 UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT MIGHT BE AUTHORIZED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES OUTLINED PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE030409
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BSHALLMAN:EEB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770048-0693
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770253/aaaabvda.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ea4774c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MEXICO 1466
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3352264
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/MEXICO FISHERIES AGREEMENT
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, MX, US
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ea4774c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009